

COOPER HOUSE
Smithville, Maryland
(mid-19th century)

K-415

The Cooper House at various times served as a social, governmental and commercial center of the community of Smithville, a small village which developed in the mid to late 19th century. The original portion of the house (2 rooms up and 2 down) were standing by at least the middle of the 19th century and included a southern addition which had a general store on the first floor and rooms for boarders above. There was also a blacksmith shop on the premises. In the years 1771-1780 the property was owned and the store operated by William V. Lucas, Esq. who was a Kent County Commissioner from the Third District in 1875, 1877, and 1879.

During the 1870's and 1880's the building was the meeting place of "The Improved Order of Redmen, Wicomico Tribe # 54, " a fraternal order who performed community service and cared for its members.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC SMITHVILLE POST OFFICE, REDMAN LODGE

AND/OR COMMON

Cooper House (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southwest side Route 297

1st

CITY, TOWN

Smithville

XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

B. Reginald Cooper

Telephone #: 301-778-2812

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Worton,

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21678

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: EHP 96

Folio #: 121

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-415

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	addition <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE ?

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Smithville is a small group of houses located near the junction of Montibello Lake Road and Route 297 (Smithville Road.) One of the houses is this three-bay, two-story dwelling which appears to date from the mid to late 19th century and is similiar to other dwellings in the village. On the same property are two outbuildings from the middle of the 19th century, or before, that suggest that there was an earlier house on the property, or that parts of the present structure are earlier.

The house is two stories in height and has a rear addition with a catslide roof. The main house roof is a shallow gable with plain, unmolded eaves that overhang about 10".

There is a one-bay gable roofed entry porch and a hipped-roofed side porch, of recent date. Windows have 6/6 sash set in plain frames, or narrow beaded frames.

The house has been changed considerably in its lifetime. There formerly was an addition on its south side, and the present rear rooms were moved on to the site from a nearby farm. The Smithville Post Office was once housed in the side wing.

The interior of the house has simple window and door trim, four panel and board and batten doors, and plaster walls. There is a simple, late mantle shelf and an enclosed stair. A portion of wide pine flooring in one closet is the only visible evidence that an early building may be the basis of the present structure.

Behind the house is a stone ice-house with a pyramidal roof and a heavy board door. The floor of the building is about three feet below grade.

The other early building on the property is a gable-roofed shed covered by vertical boards. The roof rafters are exposed and the board door is hung on wrought iron strap hinges with arrowhead ends.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-415

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historical research by Caroline Cooper and her grandmother, Ella F. Cooper

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

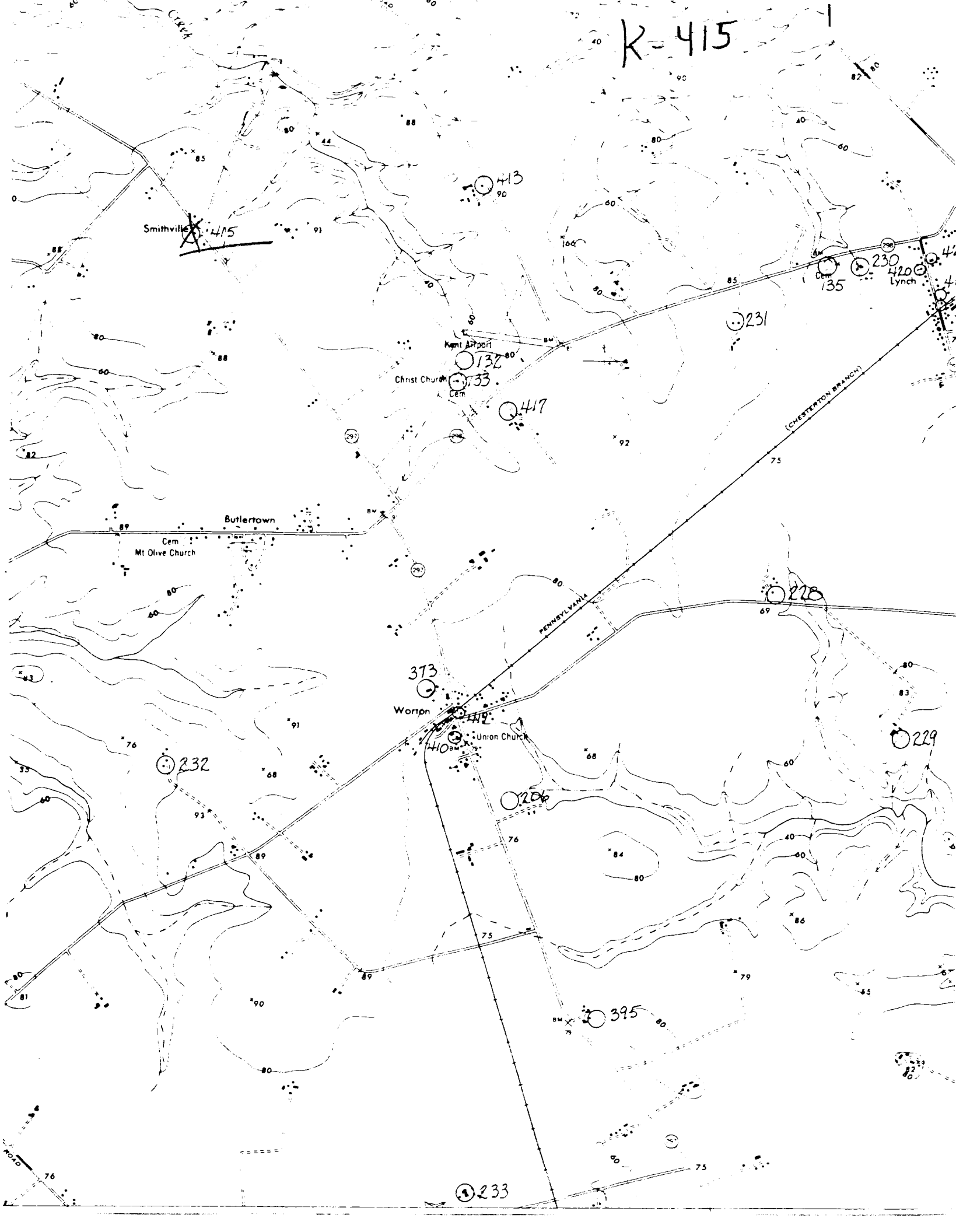
STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

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K-413

Smithville House & outbuilding

View to west

Smithville

Kent County

M.L.Fritz

8/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
JAN 28 1980